

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Purdum Historic Districtand/or common Purdum, Maryland

## 2. Location

street & number Price's Distillery Rd. from Johnson Dr. to    not for publicationcity, town Purdum Rd. Danascus    vicinity of    congressional districtstate Maryland county Montgomery

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>  </u> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<u>  </u> museum
<u>  </u> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<u>  </u> unoccupied	<u>  </u> commercial	<u>  </u> park
<u>  </u> structure	<u>  </u> both	<u>  </u> work in progress	<u>  </u> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<u>  </u> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<u>  </u> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<u>  </u> object	<u>  </u> in process	<u>  </u> yes: restricted	<u>  </u> government	<u>  </u> scientific
	<u>  </u> being considered	<u>  </u> yes: unrestricted	<u>  </u> industrial	<u>  </u> transportation
	<u>  </u> not applicable	<u>  </u> no	<u>  </u> military	<u>  </u> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Multiple ownershipstreet & number    telephone no.:   city, town    state and zip code   

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse    liberstreet & number    folio   city, town    state   

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title M-NCPPC Historic Sites Surveydate 1976    federal ☒ state ☒ county    localdepository for survey records Park Historian's Officecity, town Rockville state Maryland

## 7. Description

Survey No. M-10-24

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☐ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☐ altered

### Check one

☐ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Purdum is a late nineteenth century farming community. It is located in the northern most part of Montgomery County, not far from the town of Damascus. This region was at one time Tobacco country, but now includes cattle and dairy farms. The Purdum Historic District includes a strip of late nineteenth and early twentieth century buildings along a stretch of Price's Distillery Road, from Johnson Drive to Purdum Road. It includes a number of rural vernacular Victorian/Queen Anne influenced residences typical of those found in rural Montgomery County dating from this era. The typical house is a two story, frame, three bay by one bay structure with a gable roof with a center gable. They include rear wings and porches with turned posts running the length of the facade. A late nineteenth century church and other buildings are also found in Purdum. Although Purdum once had some commercial structures, it is now purely residential. There is, however, an old store building which has been remodeled and converted into a multi-family dwelling. Purdum today is a quiet, rural community of farms and residences.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. M-10-24

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

### Specific dates

### Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Purdum is significant as representative of the rural communities that sprung up amidst the Damascus farmlands during the late nineteenth- early twentieth centuries. This was a collection of tobacco farms during the nineteenth century. The early community included a school and church but no commercial enterprise until probably close to the turn of the century period. Its commercial needs were met by nearby Damascus and by traveling hucksters. The Purdum Historic District consists of a collection of rural vernacular structures typical of those built in rural Montgomery County during the late nineteenth- early twentieth century period, including Victorian influenced and Bungalow style designs. Of particular note is the Smith/Haines Farmhouse which appears to be the best preserved architectural example in the district.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. M-10-24

Montgomery County Land Records, Judgement Records, Wills & Tax Records  
Interview with Walter and Ruth Haines of Purdum, March 1985  
Hopkin's Atlas of 1879

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

FORM 1-72

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Catherine Crawford

organization Mont. Co. Hist. Pres. Comm.

date 9/85

street & number

telephone

city or town Rockville

state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

## HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Purdum is a late nineteenth century farming community. It is located in the Damascus area, once a tobacco growing region of Montgomery County. Purdum, in 1865, had no commercial development. The area consisted of the scattered farms of J. Purdum, Luther Browning, Middleton King, Richard Lawson and George White. Also included was a school house on the southern side of the main road above the White farm (see Martinet & Bond Map, 1865). Little had changed by 1879. It was still an area of a few farms; namely those of C.F. Purdum, Thomas G. Brown and George White. The school house no longer appears but the M.E. Church was added in 1875. These farms were then presumably all tobacco farms. Walter Haines, who lives on his grandfather Smith's farm remembers the old log tobacco houses that used to be on the property.

In 1877, William A. Smith purchased George I. White's tobacco farm. It was part of the "Trouble Enough Indeed" tract and consisted of approximately 111 acres (Deed EBP 17/221). The White house in which William Smith originally lived with his wife, Eliza, was a log dwelling which sat back in the fields (Mr. Walter Haines). George White had probably been here since 1842, the year that he purchased 171 acres from Rezin H. and Margaret Snowden of Prince Georges County, Maryland (Deed BS 11/364). William Smith later built the present Victorian style dwelling about 1887.

The Smith family is responsible for additional development in Purdum. According to his grandson, Walter Haines, Mr. Smith donated the property on which the M.E. Church was erected. He also built and ran a general merchandise store across the road from his farm (which burned in the 1940's). Also, #11507 next door to the church was built for a member of the Smith family.

Purdum was, then, an agricultural community. It also included a few services necessary to such a community. In addition to Mr. Smith's store was the Brown's store located down the road to the west. There was a blacksmith shop or two located near the cemetery (Walter Haines). The needs of Purdum were met by the farms and general stores and supplemented by a traveling huckster who often traded his wares for the farm families' eggs and milk, into the early twentieth century (Ruth Haines). Mrs. Eliza Smith provided care in times of sickness, going house to house when needed to serve as a nurse and mid-wife. Thus, Purdum was a more or less self-sufficient agricultural community during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

RESOURCES

Beginning at the western end of the Purdum Historic District is #11525. This is a late Victorian era vernacular dwelling. It is a two story, four bay wide structure with a gable roof with a center gable facade. The front entry is the second bay from the west. The house is lit by two over two sash windows with a small fixed window in the gable end facade. A shed roof porch supported by turned posts runs the length of the facade. There is a wing to the rear with a narrow brick chimney. The exterior walls are covered with gray asphalt shingles and the roof with composition shingles.

This residence was originally owned by the Brown family. The 1 1/2 acres of land on which the house was built was conveyed in November of 1877 to Catherine A. Brown from George White for \$20 (Deed EBP 17/235). She retained possession of it during her lifetime. After her death her heirs conveyed the property to Richard J. Brown in September of 1905 (Deed 184/485). Mr. Brown resided here until his death on November 17, 1942, at which point the house became the property of his widow, Lula Blanche Brown, and their daughter, Lillian B. Brown (later Lillian Day). After the death of Lula Brown on May 17, 1951, the house was conveyed to Lillian and her husband, Richard Marvin Day, the current owners.

To the east is #11515. This is a similar, vernacular dwelling which has been recently remodeled. It is a two story, four bay by one bay frame house with a gable roof with a center gable facade with a returned box cornice. To the rear, east side elevation is a single story, shed roof addition to which has been recently added a bay window. A new shed roof porch with plain posts and balustrade has been added along with a new brick chimney at the east gable end. The exterior walls have been covered with aluminum siding and the roof with composition shingles.

Directly to the west of the house, on the same lot, is a commercial-style structure. This building has also been recently remodeled and the exterior covered with aluminum siding. This was once a store building which is now a multi-family dwelling. It is a two story, frame, two bay by four bay structure with a front facing gable roof. A shed roof porch runs the length of the facade with an entry addition at the western end. The building is lit by one over one sash windows. It is a simple, rectangular shaped structure, void of ornamentation (possibly due to remodeling).

Both the house and store were originally the property of the Brown family. The house was probably built by Franklin Brown about 1890. The store building was added by Raymond Brown about 1910. The two structures were later conveyed to Delaney Brown. He and his wife, Hattie lived here and ran the store for many years (Ruth Haines). They

later rented the store building out. Over the years it was operated by the Haney's and the Mobleys in addition to the Browns. After the deaths of Mr. and Mrs. Brown the property was passed on to their heirs.

The next building, heading east, is #11507. This, like the others is a rural Victorian dwelling. It is a two story, three bay by one bay frame house with a gable roof with a center gable facade. The main entry is to the center of the facade. A porch with a shed roof supported by turned, bracketed posts with balustrade runs the length of the facade. The house is lit by two over two sash windows with shutters. There is a small, fixed window in the center gable facade. To the rear is a single story, shed roof addition. To the western side elevation is a single story gable roof addition. There is a plain, brick chimney at the eastern gable end. The property on which this house was built belonged to Eliza Smith. This house was built sometime around the turn of the century. According to Walter Haines, it was built for one of the sons of William and Eliza Smith, Jeff Smith and his wife. The property was later legally conveyed to Flora S. Smith in March of 1926 (Deed 394/383). Flora Smith lived here until her death on August 13, 1952. Her property was at that time described in the Real Estate Inventory as 142.5 perches improved by "a small two story frame" dwelling of six rooms, heated by stove (Real Inventory WCC 25/334). The house then became the property of her two sons, Edward H. and King W. Smith. It was eventually conveyed to King Smith and his wife, Dorothy M. Smith. It was purchased by the current owner, William R. Davis, Jr. in February of 1963. His mother, Jessie Davis now resides in the house. The Davis' had the side addition made in recent years.

To the east of this house is the Mountain View United Methodist Church. This building appears on the Hopkins Atlas of 1879 as the M.E. Church. According to Mrs. Janie Payne this was the M.E. Church until the Methodist churches merged in 1939. The church was constructed in 1875 on land donated by Mr. William A. Smith. According to Mr. Walter Haines, it was built of rough timbers with pole rafters and was originally heated by wood burning stoves.

This is a simple frame ecclesiastical structure. It is a single story, one bay by four bay building with a front facing gable roof. To the center of the facade is an entry tower with a flat roof surrounded by a balustrade. The one over one sash windows which appear along the side elevation are of stained glass with panes around. There is an exterior brick chimney at the center of the west side elevation. In 1948 a large addition with complete basement was added to create space for Sunday School classes and church suppers. Then, in 1951-52 the original front stoop was enclosed creating the present vestibule, and restrooms were added in the basement. In 1959 another addition was made to the hall, and still another in 1969. The aluminum siding and storm windows were added in 1974 ("Mt. View United Methodist Church In Review," History-Memories, 100 Anniversary edition, 1875-1975). To the east of

the house is the cemetery.

Next to the church property, sitting back off the road is a 1940's Bungalow-like dwelling. It was built by the current owner, John Haines.

On the other side of Price's Distillery Road is the Haines farm, #11402. This is a good, well preserved example of late nineteenth century, rural Victorian architecture. The house, resting on approximately 100 acres of rolling farmlands, is a two story, three bay by one bay frame dwelling with a gable roof. At the facade is a steeply pitched center gable with Gothic cross bracing and a single, arched, four light casement window. The entry is to the center of the facade. A wooden porch with turned posts with balustrade runs the length of the facade. The house is lit by two over two sash windows. To the rear is a two story kitchen wing with a porch to either side elevation. The house has a center brick chimney. The roof is covered with raised seam metal. Behind the house are a number of farm buildings including a bank barn.

This house was built about 1887 by William A. Smith. Mr. Smith had purchased the farm on which his house was built in November of 1877 from George White (Deed EBP 17/221). Mr. Smith and family first lived in the White's log house until the present house was later built. William Smith was a farmer and storekeeper. His wife, Eliza, was a nurse and mid-wife for the community. Tobacco was originally raised on this farm. It later became a dairy farm and now cattle and hay are raised here.

Eliza and William Smith lived their lives here. Eliza outlived her husband, passing away on May 16, 1939. All her property, including her 111 acre farm, was conveyed to her children and their families according to her will (Will HGC 23/344). The Real Estate Inventory of Mrs. Smith's property was described in 1940 as 111 acres located on the south side of the main road, currently under cultivation. It was improved by a eight room frame dwelling with electricity and well water, a frame bank barn 36 x 40, chicken house, corn crib, smoke house and other outbuildings. The property on the north side of the road in 1940 was improved by "an old store house formerly used for the general merchandise business" (Real Inventory, HGC 22/443). The executors of Eliza Smith's will sold the farm to her grandson, Walter E. Haines, Jr. in September of 1940 (Deed 810/52). His father had lived here before him and so, Mr. Haines had grown up in this house. Mr. Haines still resides here on the family farm with his wife, Ruth.

To the east of the Haines' farm is a modern, brick rancher style dwelling. Next to this is #11310 which appears to be an early twentieth century, one and a half story, cross gable residence. although not typical of the houses found in Purdum, it could be considered a contributing structure. To the east of it are two more modern, brick ranchers.



Returning to the other side of Price's Distillery Road is #11401. This is a more typical Bungalow style residence. It is a one and a half story, three bay by one bay frame structure with a gable roof the front of which overhangs to form the facade porch. This porch is supported by slightly tapered columns resting on brick piers. At the front elevation of the roof is a center gable dormer with a triple window. The front entry is to the center, with a glass panel door with small panes around. The house is lit by three over one sash windows with a double window to the east side of the entry. There are triple windows in the gable ends. There is a single story, shed roof sun porch with windows all around on the eastern side elevation towards the front. Further back is a single story, exposed rafter gable roof entry section.

This house was probably built by Roby T. Beall in the early 1940's, on a lot of 6 acres and 10 5/8 perches he obtained in three parcels between 1935 and 1940. After his death, the property became the possession of his brothers, sisters, nieces and nephews. In February of 1947 the property was purchased by Claude C. and Mattie Wright (Deed 1067/396). Following the death of Mr. Wright on October 29, 1972 his property was assessed and described as 6.6 acres "improved by a frame bungalow, front porch, living room, dining room, kitchen, pantry, two bedrooms and one bath on the first floor. Three bedrooms and no bath upstairs. Rear porch enclosed, part basement with concrete and earth floor, oil and hot water heat. Detached frame garage, composition roof. Other outbuildings include a stable and smoke house" (Real Inventory Case # 056-12-72. The Wright's two children, Norman and Dorothy sold the property in May of 1973 to the current owners, Lindsay T. and Hanna Blair (Deed 4380/561)).

The next structure, located east of the bungalow is #11307. This appears to be an older home which has been extensively remodeled. The present structure, covered with siding and with two added side wings, now has the appearance of a modern, traditional style home. Only the the two brick, older looking center chimneys suggest its possible age.

East of this residence is the Pleasant Grove Community Church with a date stone of 1980 though its appearance suggests it too is older and perhaps remodeled. The style resembles that of the Mountain View Church.

Lastly, across the road from the Pleasant Grove Church is the Wyndo Farm, #11206. The house was built in 1906 by Genoa and Vinnie King. The Kings, part of an early, well established family in this area, purchased this farm in 1905 (Deed T.D. 17/389). It was reported that there were a number of log structures on the property at the time that the King purchased it. They sold the property in 1923. It is now owned by the Doody family (Deed 3420/95) who raise Holstein cattle here. (Research by Donald M. Leavitt, 9/79, Sugarloaf Region Trails).

The farmhouse is a two story, five bay by four bay, L-shaped frame with a gable roof with returned box cornice.

Its details suggest a late Victorian design but the house has obviously undergone some changes. The house is composed of two sections. The entry is located near the point where the two sections meet. The entry, covered by a gable hood, has a wooden panel door with a two light transom. To the west of the entry is the front facing gable roof wing with a two story extending bay window. At the west side elevation is a single story glass enclosed porch with a shed roof. The house is lit by two over two sash windows. To the rear is a two story wing to which has been recently added a single story addition and a shed roof carport. East of the house is a frame bank barn.

CURRENT OWNERS

P-7      11525 Mountain View Road  
Richard M. & Lilliam B. Day  
Damascus, Maryland 20872

P-46      11515  
David W. & C.C. Bradley

P-64      11507  
William R. Davis, Jr.

P-66      11501  
Mt. View Church

P-42      11433  
James W. & A.F. Haines

P-90      11401  
Lindsay T. & H. Blair

P-88      11307  
Edward C. & L. L. Waldron

P-185      Pleasant Grove Church  
%Bd. Education  
850 Hungerford Road  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

P-222      11420  
Walter & Ruth Haines

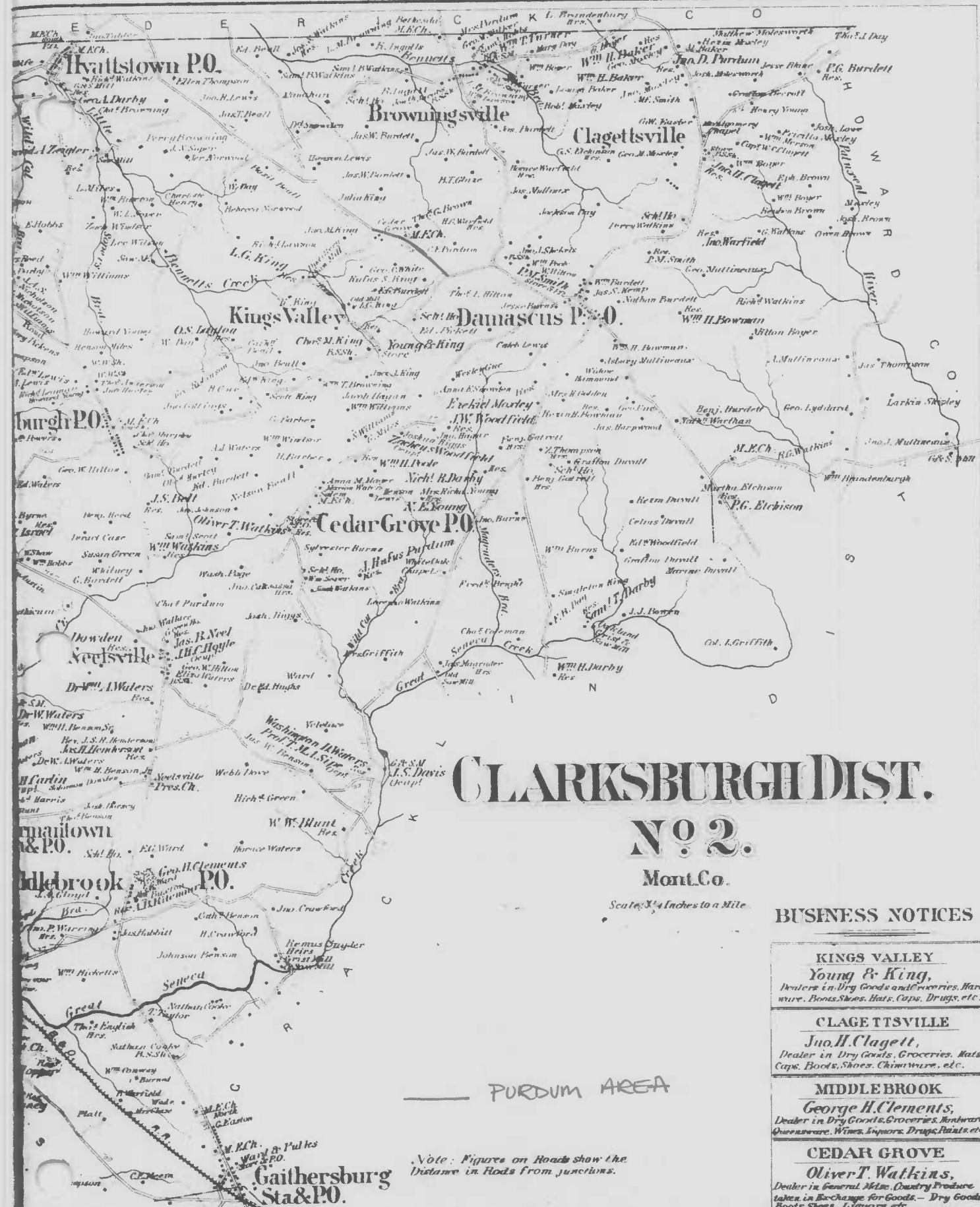
P-201      11400  
Lewis E. & J. E. Haines

P-200      11310  
Hal D. & D.S. Crawford

P-197      11300  
Ruth A. & Edward M. Burns

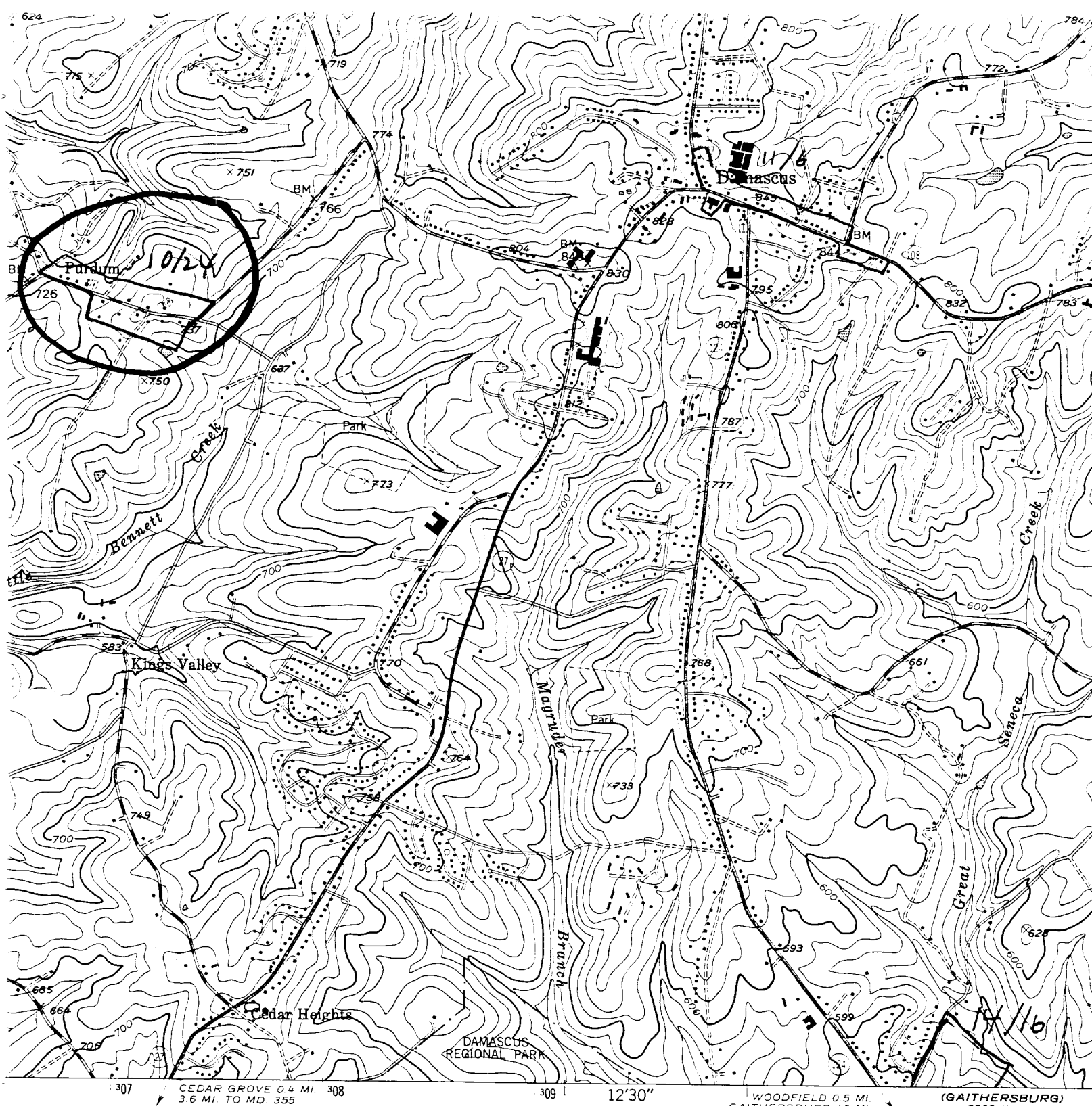
P-195      11220  
Ritchie L. & L.L. Haney

P-285      11206  
&555 John F. & B.E. Doody





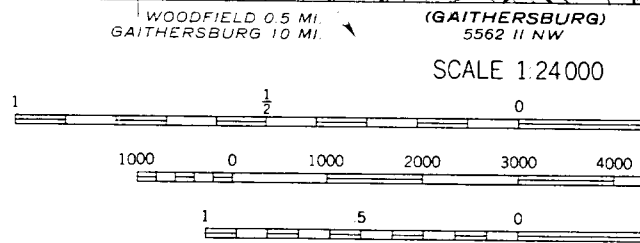
- ★ Contributing Structures  
 Infill  
 /// Vacant  
 — Boundaries



5. Forest Service  
 ed by the Geological Survey  
 WSSD, USSCS, and USFS  
 al photographs by KEK plotter 1944  
 en 1943 Field check, 1944  
 10 North American datum  
 d Maryland coordinate system  
 Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
 e  
 nholdings within the boundaries of  
 eservations shown on this map  
 ple and woodland compiled by the Geological  
 ographs taken 1977 and other source data  
 id checked. Map edited 1979

*Damascus*  
*Quad*  
 MN  
 GN  
 7°  
 124 MILS  
 1°23'  
 25 MILS

UTM GRID AND 1979 MAGNETIC NORTH  
 DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACT  
 FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTRICTED  
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS



NAME PURDUM, Md M: #10-24  
LOCATION MTN. VIEW Rd DAMASCUS, Md (11515 Mountain View Road)  
FACADE LOOKING NW TO PURDUM Rd  
PHOTO TAKEN 3/13/74 MDWYER





m-# 10-24 TURDUM HISTORIC DISTRICT  
#11310 MOUNTAIN VIEW RD.

5/85



M: # 10-24 PURDUM HISTORIC DISTRICT  
# 11307 MOUNTAIN VIEW RD.

5/05



m.i.  
#10-24 PURDUM HISTORIC DISTRICT  
11401 MOUNTAIN VIEW RD.

5/85



m: #10-24 PURDUM HISTORIC DISTRICT  
# 11507 MOUNT VIEW RD.  
5/05





M: # 10-24 TURDUM HISTORIC DISTRICT  
# 11515 MOUNTAIN VIEW RD.

5/05



M: # 10-24 PURDUM HISTORIC DISTRICT  
# 11515 MOUNTAIN VIEW RD.  
OLD STORE BLDG.

5/85



m: #10-24 PURDUM HISTORIC DISTRICT  
#11515 MOUNTAIN VIEW RD.

5/85 OLD STORE RESIDENCE



<sup>M.I.</sup>  
# 10-24 PURDUM HISTORIC DISTRICT  
# 11525 MOUNTAIN VIEW RD  
5/85